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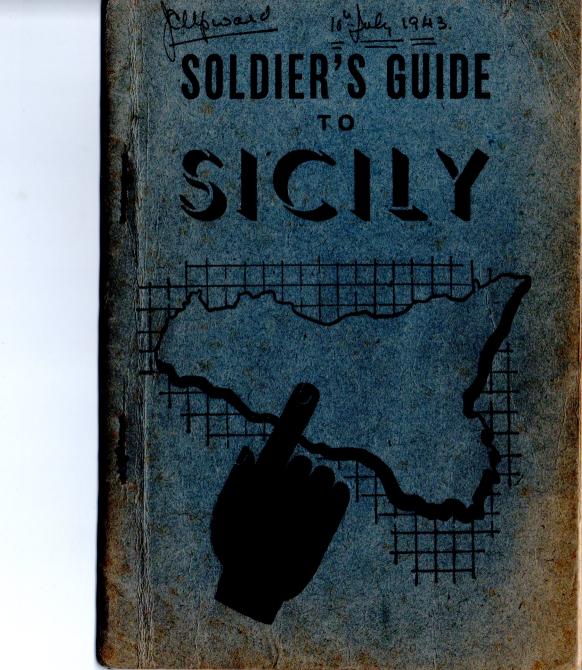
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SOLDIER'S GUIDE
TO SICILY



FOREWORD

We are about to engage in the second phase of the operations which began with the invasion of North Africa.

We have defeated the enemies' forces on the South shore of the Mediterranean and captured his army intact.

The French in North Africa, for whom the yoke of Axis domination has been lifted, are now our loyal allies.

However, this is NOT enough. Our untiring pressure on the enemy must be maintained, and as this book falls into your hands we are about to pursue the invasion and occupation of enemy territory.

The successful conclusion of these operations will NOT only strike closer to the heart of the Axis, but also will remove the last threat to the free sea lanes of the Mediterranean.

Remember that this time it is indeed enemy territory which we are attacking, and as such we must expect extremely difficult fighting.

But we have learned to work smoothly alongside one another as a team, and many of you who will be in the first ranks of this force know full well the power of our Allied air and naval forces and the real meaning of air and naval superiority.

The task is difficult but your skill, courage and devotion to duty will be successful in driving our enemies closer to disaster and leading us towards victory and the liberation of Europe and Asia.

Dwight D. Eisenhower,

General, U.S. Army, C.-in-C.

SOLDIER'S GUIDE TO SICILY

SICILY is the largest island in the MEDITER-RANEAN—roughly the size of WALES. Its importance, however, lies not in its size, but in its position. Situated at the narrowest point of the MEDITER-RANEAN, where only 90 miles of sea separate it from TUNIS, it has permitted the Axis to attack East-bound convoys. Thus it has forced us to send the greater part of our shipping 12,000 miles round the CAPE.

With its dozen odd aerodromes, SICILY gave Axis forces air support in NORTH AFRICA, and until recently permitted a stiff blockade of MALTA and the "narrows." CATANIA and GERBINI in particular have long been strongholds of the Luftwaffe in the MEDITERRANEAN. Indeed, in SICILY is Air Marshal KESSELRING'S H.Q. (KESSELRING who invented the word "Coventrize" after his too successful raid on that place).

On the other side SICILY is separated from ITALY itself by only two miles of water. In our hands, therefore, SICILY would be a vital threat to the Italian mainland, and of course to SARDINIA and CORSICA. It would offer our fleet SYRACUSE, AUGUSTA, CATANIA, PALERMO, TRAPANI and MARSALA as bases. And it would bring our bombers within 2 hours range of ROME, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours of GENOA, and 4 hours of MILAN and TURIN, the nearest we have ever been.

The Story of the Island

The Island has a long and unhappy history that has left it primitive and undeveloped, with many relics and ruins of a highly civilized past.

Successive invaders and rulers have oppressed the people in all ages. Greeks, Romans, Carthaginians, Vandals, Goths, Byzantines, Arabs, Normans, Germans, French, Neapolitans, and finally the Halians have ruled the Island.

In the Napoleonic period SICILY came under the protection of Nelson's fleet, and for the first time in its history received a liberal constitution. With the withdrawal of our protection the Island relapsed into the old tyranny, rebellions following every ten or twelve years, only to be brutally repressed.

Just under a hundred years ago Garibaldi, with his Thousand, 'landed in the WEST of the Island at MARSALA, captured PALERMO, the capital, and then MESSINA. SICILY became a part of the Kingdom of ITALY.

Many of the old evils still remained, absentee landlords, poverty, sickness (particularly malaria) and bad government. General poverty and poor living conditions forced up the rate of emigration—to the UNITED STATES in particular, to TUNIS and to TRIPOLI, while at home Secret Societies (Mafia) and brigandage thrived.

When Fascism seized power in ITALY, SICILY remained a poor but vicious Cinderella. It was not until 1937 that Mussolini wooed her on his first visit—flourishing a huge programme of public works, in the way of water supplies, drainage schemes, road building, break-up of large estates, resettlement of rural colonies or "allotments," etc. Most of this programme, like so much that Mussolini promised his people, remained a programme.

Today 40 per cent. of the people are still illiterate (compared with 20 per cent. on the mainland). In the main centres one-third lives in crowded and one-half in over crowded conditions. Two houses out of three

are without drinking water laid on, and only about one-half have sanitation. Just over half the people are in agriculture, with an extraordinarily low standard of living. Fascism claims only 25 per cent. of the population of the Island. Even this figure probably represents hope rather than faith.

The Nature of the Land

SICILY rises, an irregular mass of mountains, out of the MEDITERRANEAN. Above this mass, to the EAST, can be seen the rounded cone of ETNA, still an active volcano.

Although in many places the mountains drop sheer into the sea, at others they slope or scarp down to a coastal strip, narrow to almost non-existent in some places, broad and fertile in a few others. These rare fertile areas are the Plain of CATANIA in the EAST, the Plain of GELA in the SOUTH, and the Plain of TRAPANI in the WEST. The NORTH is, for the most part, rugged and sheer.

The main road of the Island winds round the narrow coastal strip, at times going inland over foothills, at others precariously following round the precipitous side of a mountain. A road system going over hill and valley also joins the main towns across the centre of the Island, so that, looking at a map, one gets the impression of many roads radiating from the centre.

The main centres of civilization are by the sea, while many smaller towns nestle in the mountains. In view of the troubled history of the Island these latter tend to be in naturally strong positions—particularly the older ones, some of which are on veritable pinnacles of rock.

The mountains are not by any means all gaunt and rugged. Some are covered with terraced vines and orchards of lemon, orange, almond, olives.

Such soil as rests among the rocky areas is cultivated with wheat, cereals and beans, and, where the plough cannot reach or the soil lies fallow, with grass for pasture for all types of sheep and cattle.

Cut deep into the soft sides of the mountains, which are limestone, sandstone, sulphurous stone or lava, are the river beds. In the winter rainy season, torrents carry down soil from the high ground, and often flooding their banks, from lower ground as well. As soon as the rains are over the peasants divide the river bed into fields and plough up the fertile soil, canalizing the remaining streams for irrigation. In a normal summer these rivers, with the exception only of the SIMETO in the EAST, the SALSO and PLATANI in the SOUTH, and the BELICE in the NORTH, dry up completely.

Thus there is often considerable shortage of water, particularly high up in the mountains where, during the rains, water is collected in receptacles for storage, and even then it has to be supplemented by carrying water up by mules in summer.

In order to prevent the rains carrying away soil from their fields, and, of course, to prevent cattle straying over their crops, the farmers erect dry stone walls round their property. These sometimes measure as much as 4 ft. at their base, and as much as 8 ft. in height. They criss-cross almost every cultivated area and are one of the main features of the hill country.

The final impression of SICILY is one of intense sunshine, of rugged mountains, of vine and olive clad slopes, of torrents and of dry ravines, of white roads winding steeply up hills and down valleys, of peasants and mules, of large ports and cities, and of small, forgotten. mediaeval towns with narrow streets, perched on hillsides.

The Climate

SICILY in summer is decidedly hot, more so in the SOUTH than in the NORTH. SYRACUSE, in an average summer, has a temperature of 84°—which would be considered a heat wave in ENGLAND.

SICILY also has its own "Khamseen"—the SIROCCO. This has two varieties—the moist, which is the commoner, and the dry. The former gives a general feeling of sticky dampness under tropical heat conditions; the latter sets the dry heat rocketting up to 110° during the day and 95° by night. The latter is probably the less unpleasant for an Englishman Fortunately neither is frequent nor do they last long

Rain falls mostly in winter, and only slightly in autumn and spring. In 1937, when GREENWICH had 179 rainy days, SICILY only had 50—70. But when rain does fall, it falls in short, very intense showers, sometimes flooding the rivers so that they come racing down the mountains carrying with them crops and trees, and in bad seasons, bridges and houses. And then the water dries off rapidly, leaving a shortage of water in many districts.

The People

In the Sicilian are blended several of the races that have conquered him. He is smaller in build than the average Italian. His complexion is dark, and his hair usually black, although in the South-Eastern areas a fair-haired, blue-eyed type is not uncommon.

The bulk of the inhabitants are Roman Catholic and much addicted to Saints' Days, which take on a festival aspect. They are none the less evidence of a devout faith.

There are almost four million inhabitants in the Island. 60 per cent. live within 6 miles of the sea.

Large Towns.—PALERMO is the Capital with a population of 340,000. CATANIA, the next largest city, has 210,000 inhabitants. MESSINA, 120,000 inhabitants. None of the remaining towns has a population of more than 50,000, which is the population of MAIDSTONE or CARLISLE.

Provinces.—The country is divided into 9 Provinces. These are organised as follows:—

Province	No. of Communes	Population	Average per sq. km.
AGRIGENTO	41	407,759	138
CALTANISSETTA	22	250,258	122
CATANIA	53	701,443	200
ENNA	20	213,185	85
MESSINA	89	612,118	193
PALERMO	76	882,659	179
RAGUSA	12	217,088	148
SIRACUSA	19	276,452	126
TRAPANI	20	368,482	150
	352	3,929,444	156
		-	Manufactured .

(The comparative figures are 190 and 265 per sq. km. in United Kingdom and England respectively.)

Although the birth rate in SICILY is higher than in ITALY, emigration has made the increase in population rather less than on the mainland.

Morals are superficially very rigid, being based on the Catholic religion and Spanish etiquette of Bourbon times; they are, in actual fact, of a very low standard, particularly in the agricultural areas.

The Sicilian is still, however, well known for his extreme jealousy in so far as his womenfolk are concerned, and in a crisis still resorts to the dagger.

SICILY is divided into nine Provinces, each of which is governed by a Prefect. Needless to say, Prefects are chosen by the Fascist Party, and are responsible to the Minister of the Interior—no less a person than Mussolini himself since 1926. Each province has its "Communes" which vary in size from small villages to large cities. Every foot of land belongs to one or other "Commune," which is really a "borough" and has the same functions.

The Commune has its own police, Carabinieri (or Military Police), and Fascist police as well as the OVRA—the Italian Gestapo—so that crime, to be successful, has to be highly organised—which it is in all grades of society. An American report maintains that "gangsterism" in the U.S.A. had its origin in Sicilian immigration.

Industry

Sulphur: At one time SICILY was the world's chief sulphur producer, but U.S. production has reduced the percentage from 96 per cent. to 20 per cent of the world's output. The Island also produces asphalt, salt, pumice, a little cotton, fruit (citrus and nuts) and a great deal of wine. There is practically no mineral wealth.

What Do They Eat?

The average Sicilian lives on pasta (the spaghettimacaroni family) with tomato sauce and a little meal, sardines, tunny fish, cheese or olive oil to add a variety of flavours.

Meat is chiefly mutton and goat or beef, veal, etc. There is a certain amount of MEDITERRANEAN fish.

Wheat is grown in sufficient quantity to maintain a normal bread standard, but in some seasons there is a shortage. The "Locust" bean, which is grown all over the Island, is not used as a vegetable, but as fodder; smaller beans are the chief vegetable, with tomatoes a close second.

Fruit and nuts, oranges, lemons, almonds and pistachios are very plentiful.

Wine, especially Marsala, is the popular drink.

Grapes, or candied orange and lemon peel, are produced for dessert.

Antiquities

SICILY reached the height of its civilization under the Ancient Greeks and many places on the Island are associated with classical mythology. The finest monuments are at SYRACUSE, the ancient capital of the Island, which has a temple, an ampitheatre, a theatre, a castle, etc. The rival city of AGRIGENTO also has many antique ruins.

In many places the hillsides are honeycombed with caves, some of which were prehistoric cities.

Fiesta

Saint's Day feasts are a feature of the Island. They are usually associated with pageant processions and theatricals. They vary in date according to the local patron saint's day. The odd mixture of operatic songs and pantomime are not considered irreverent.

Towns (in approximate order of size)

PALERMO (Pop. 400,000).—Capital and largest port of SICILY with many fine old buildings and beautiful gardens. There are bathing beaches, sailing and rowing, golf and tennis facilities, as well as cinemas, theatres and variety halls. The museums and botanical gardens are of interest.

MESSINA (Pop. 125,000).—Nearest town to ITALY, to which there is a ferry service. Most of the buildings are modern, but low to avoid damage by earthquake, as in 1908. The town is more commercial than tourist, but there are cinemas and theatres. The local trams have services NORTH and SOUTH along the coast for an hour's ride, as well as in the town itself.

SIRACUSA.—Famous mainly for its old Greek ruins and the pits or quarries, which are full of trees and shrubs. One cave has been used for rope-making for hundreds of years. A favourite rowing excursion is to the mouth of the River ANAPO (about 1½ hours each way).

RAGUSA.—An old town perched on two hills joined by a bridge, with market gardens in the ravine below. Both the main town and RAGUSA IBLA on the next hill have pleasant old buildings of interest.

CALTANISSETTA.—Is the centre of the sulphur mining district, but the refining is done elsewhere. The town has a modern look with several wide avenues and two fine public gardens.

VITTORIA (Pop. 35,000).—Mainly noted for its wine, which is rather strong and is used in other parts of ITALY to put "body" into the local production. A prosperous, fairly modern town with buildings in the typical Sicilian style.

CALTAGIRONE.—" The Queen of the Mountains" is on three hills, two of which are joined by a large bridge. The streets are picturesque, narrow, and winding A lot of pottery is made here—small statuettes in old Sicilian costumes being a speciality.

MODICA.—This picturesque old town is built on the side of a hill, and is full of alleyways of steps. The view from the top is magnificent. There are some interesting mediæval churches and an old castle. The town traces its origin back to before the Greek settlements in the 7th Century B.C. Prehistoric cave dwellings and tombs can be seen in the CAVA d'ISPICA gorge nearby.

ENNA.—The central town of the Island attracts both for its view and its fine monuments. The town is essentially agricultural and pastoral now, but for its buildings is reputed the most interesting town in the interior of SICILY.

COMISO.—Chiefly an agricultural town with vineyards and almonds, olives, and large old carob trees. A fine old castle and some interesting examples of architecture of various periods, as well as the DIANA fountain in the main square, the water of which formerly supplied a Roman bath.

AVOLA.—Centre of the almond growing district, it is noted also for its oranges. There are some interesting public buildings which stand out from the white, single-storied houses. The old town, some five miles N.W. on the plateau, was destroyed by an earth-quake in the 17th Century, and only a few ruins mark its site.

Water Supply

About two-fifths of the Island has no drinking water supplies in the inhabited centres. As a result water is still bought and sold, and sometimes has to

be carried two or three miles. In some areas houses have cisterns on the roof to catch the rain water in the season. There are a number of wells, up to 70 ft. deep in some parts, and over 4,000 springs. The water, however, often tastes of gypsum, sulphur or salt, sometimes to the point of being unpalatable to all except the local inhabitants. Treatment is essential for practically all water from natural sources.

The Road System

The main road of the Island is the Coast-Road which encircles the whole island. A road system radiates from ENNA in the dead-centre of the Island, 3,000 ft. up, joining MESSINA—PALERMO—CATANIA—SIRACUSA and AGRIGENTO as well as several minor places.

Roads divide into four general types, State roads. Provincial roads, Communal roads, and Local roads which are kept up by their respective authorities. Since the Island produces asphalt and bitumen the surfaces are usually good, and a surprising number of even minor country roads are surfaced.

The Railway System

Railway communications are adequate. One system covers the WEST and Centre of the Island, and one the Eastern circuit. The two systems are only joined by slender links. There are numerous broad and narrow gauge lines and rack railways in the interior. Trains are mostly coal burning or diesel.

Sanitation

Sanitation is primitive; normally a pit at the bottom of the garden. This provides manure for the fields.

In the towns where there is drainage, only half the houses have latrines, and even so, the drainage is inadequate.

Hygiene and Health

The native, living as he does in primitive conditions, has become immune from many diseases which British soldiers are likely to contract.

The insanitary condition of the Island is one of its best defences against an invader, and casualties from disease could well be higher than those caused in the field.

Malaria.—Transmitted by mosquitoes which breed in marshes and inland waters or in mountain streams, torrents and pools between May and November. Civilians are issued with quinine, and use mosquitonets in malarious areas. Our military precautions will be destruction of mosquito-breeding grounds, and issue of mosquito-nets and veils, of anti-mosquito cream and of Flysol for spraying. Until an area has been found to be free of malaria, each soldier will take two tablets of MEPACRINE on two days each week. This counters the effect of malarial-mosquito bites.

Troops should always sleep beneath mosquito-nets, or if up at night, wear slacks and shirts with sleeves down, and use mosquito-cream.

Sandfly-Fever.—This disease is common and may prove a very great hazard to health and fighting efficiency. The disease is transmitted by a small midge-like insect and the fever comes on within a few days of being bitten. Breeding places of this insect are difficult to locate, but they are found in large numbers where there is moisture, shade and food. They breed freely in cracks and fissures in soil and in the sides of banks and culverts where moisture and organic refuse are present.

(i) Preventive measures are the same as for malaria, i.e., protect yourself against bites by sleeping under your net, by using anti-malaria cream, and wearing slacks and long-sleeve shirts. (ii) Attack breeding-grounds with oil and apply "scorchedearth" policy—spray buildings and tents with Flysol.

Dyscutry.—A fly-borne disease widespread in the Island. Flies spread the germs which are picked up at latrines, refuse dumps, and from manure, including human manure which is used on the Island for cultivating vegetables.

Prevention is best achieved by good sanitation, which includes correct disposal of faeces and urine, filth and rubbish of all sorts. The motto should be 'COVER', 'BURY', and 'SWAT THAT FLY'.

Typhoid.—Also a fly-borne disease. Not so dangerous where every soldier has been inocutated within the past 12 months. HAVE YOU?

Malta Fever.—This is a disease which affects goats, and is conveyed to man by drinking or eating unboiled milk products—locally-produced cheese, butter and junket. It can be prevented by putting out of bounds all restaurants and cafes until they have been examined, and by not eating food from unauthorised sources

V.D.—Venereal disease thrives in the Island. Infection can be avoided by the use of preventive measures provided by units, i.e., E.T. packets and rubber-sheaths, but contact with the civilian population may bring other diseases such as those mentioned above.

Typhus.—There is a danger of Typhus spreading, not merely in the Island, but all over EUROPE. Lice carry it. If soldiers are clean and fit and their clothes are changed often enough, they should run little danger of catching Typhus. In addition, anti-louse powder will be supplied to put in the seams of under-clothes. Also, avoid contact with civilians as much as possible.

Water-borne Diseases.—Can be avoided by drinking water only from Army supply which has been tested and treated. All water must be considered infected until it has been treated.

Electricity Supply

Most of the Island is on the grid system. Power is supplied in the winter by hydro-electric works on rivers; in the dry season by small steam or diesel plants.

Gas

Few towns have gas, which is used mainly industrially. In the larger towns electricity is used for cooking. In the country, imported charcoal.

Currency, Weights and Measures

Table of Currency, Weights and Measures in ITALY with approximate English equivalents

Currency .

100 centesimi = 1 Lira

Coinage. Bronze: 5 and 10 centesimi

Nickel: 20 and 50 cent., 1 and 2 Lira

Silver: 5, 10 and 20 Lira

Paper Money 10, 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 Lira

Tripolitanian rates of exchange will NOT apply in the event of the occupation of the island, since British and U.S. troops will only use special issue of currency.

United States Army personnel will carry with them into SICILY no money other than United States vellow seal dollars and United States coins.

Any francs must be converted into yellow seal dollars at the rate of 50 francs to the dollar and any non-yellow seal dollars must be converted into yellow seal dollars.

Army finance and disbursing officers will make such conversion prior to embarkation or whilst on the boat.

In no circumstances will non-yellow seal dollars be taken into SICILY.

British troops will carry with them into SICILY no other money than currency issued by the British Mititary Authority (known as B.M.A. notes) in notes of £1, 10s., 5s., 2s. 6d., and 1s. and British coinage. Any other currency which is in the soldier's possession must be converted into these B.M.A. notes or U.K. coinage at a rate which will be notified.

A proclamation establishing United States yellow seal dollars and United States coins, as well as British Military Authority notes and British coins, as legal tender in SICILY, and also fixing the rate of such currencies in terms of Italian lire, will be issued upon occupation.

Italian lire will continue to be legal tender.

Yellow seal dollars and B.M.A. notes are interchangeable at the rate of four (4) yellow seal dollars equal to one (1) B.M.A. pound.

Exchange rates quoted in the text of this "Guide" will, therefore, be ignored.

Weight

 $100 \text{ grammes} = 3\frac{1}{2} \text{ ozs.}$

1 Kilogram = 2,2 lbs. (approx.) 50 Kilograms = 1101 lbs.

100 Kilograms = 220 lbs. = 1 Quintal

1,000 Kilograms = 2,205 lbs. = 10 Quintals = 1 metric ton

Peculiar to SICILY are: LIBRA = 314 grammes = 11 ozs. ROTOLO = 800 grammes = about 14 lbs.

Capacity

1 litre = $1\frac{3}{4}$ pints (imp.) 10 litres = 2.2 gallons (imp.)

100 litres = 22 gallons (imp.) = 1 hectolitre

1 cubic litre = 220 gallons (imp.) = 351 cubic feet

Area

1 square metre = $10\frac{3}{4}$ sq. ft. 100 square metres = $107\frac{2}{3}$ sq. ft.

100 square metres = 1073 sq. 1t. 100 ares = 2.5 acres =

100 ares = 2.5 acres = 1 hectare 100 hectares = 247 acres = 1 square kilometre

Length

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1 metre = 391 inches

100 metres = 1091 yards

1,000 metres = 1,094 yards = 1 kilometre = 2 of a mile

8 kilometres = 5 miles

8) kilometres = 492 miles
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Some Useful Words and Phrases

Local pronunciation varies from standard Italian, but the following words and phrases should not present any difficulty to either party:—

Good day	Buon giórno	Boo-on jawno	
Good evening	Buóna sera	Boo-on-ah say-rah	
Please	Prégo	Pray-go	
Thank you	Grázie	Grah-zi-ay	
Where	Dóve	Doh-vay	
Where is	Dóve si tróva	Doh-vay see troh-va	
Where can one	Dóve si può	Doh-vay see poo-oh	
Have you	Avéte	Ah-vay-tay	
Give me	Dátemi	Dah-tay-mee	
Bring me	Portátemi	Paw-ta-tay-mee	
I wish	vóglio	Voh-lee-oh	
To eat	mangiáre	Mahn-ja-ray	
To drink	bére	beh-ray	
To buy	compráre	kom-pra-ray	
To pay	pagáre	Pah-gah-ray	
To go	andáre	an-dah-ray	
How much,			
how many	quánto	kuh-ahn-to	
What is the		Company of the Compan	
name	Cóme si chiáma	koh-may see kee-ahm-ah	
This	Quésto	kwest-oh	
That	Quéllo	. kwell-oh	
A little	Póco	po-koh	
Too much	Tróppo	tro-poh	
Far	Lontáno	lon-tah-noh	
Near	Vicíno	Vee-chee-noh	
Hurry	Fáte présto	Fah-tay press-toh	
Slowly	Adágio	Ah-dah-jo	
I do not			
understand	non capísco	non ka-pis-koh	

Have you		
understood	Capíto	Kah-pee-toh
Tea	tè	tay
Coffee	caffe	kah-fay
Water	ácqua	Ah-kwah
Wine	vino	Vee-noh
Bread	páne	Pah-nay
Egg	uóva	Ooh-oh-vah
Fish	pésca.	Pess-kah
Meat	cárne	Kar-nay
Woman	donna	Don-nah
There is	c'è	chay
Yes	si	see
No	no	noh
One	úno	Ooh-noh
Two	dúe	doo-ay
Three	tre	tray
Four	quáttro	kwa-troh
Five	cinque	chin-kway
Six	séi	say-ee
Seven	sétte	set-tay
Eight	ótto	oh-toh
Nine	nóve	no-vay
Ten	diéci	dee-ay-chee

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NOTE.—c before a, o, u is pronounced as k in king

c ,, e, i ,, ,, ,, k in king

g before a, o, u ,, ,, g in go

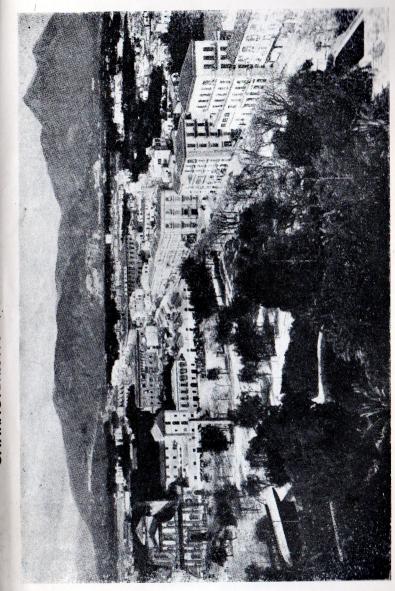
g ,, e, i ,, ,, ,, j in jam

gh ,, g in go

gl ,, g in g

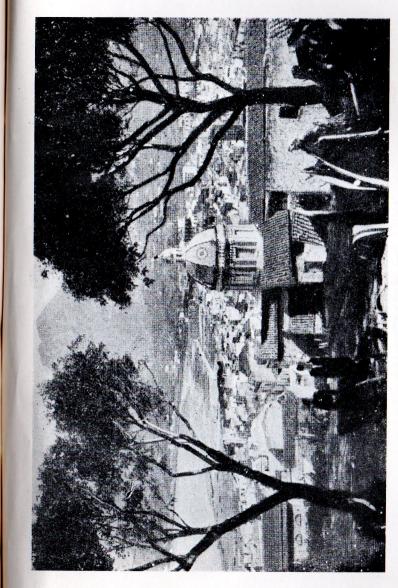
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Final e is pronounced

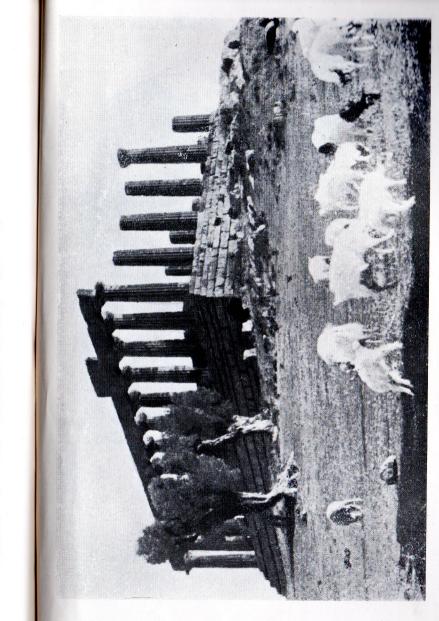


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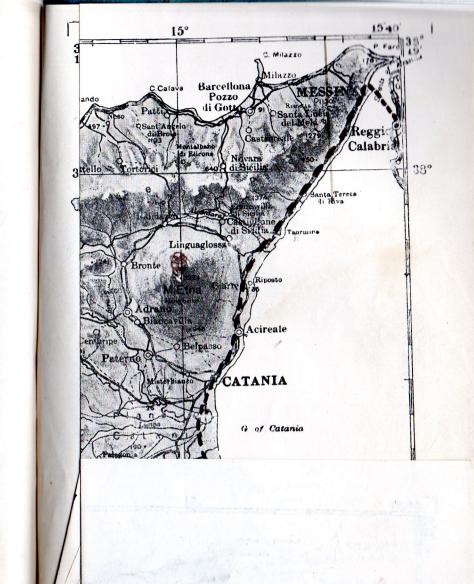
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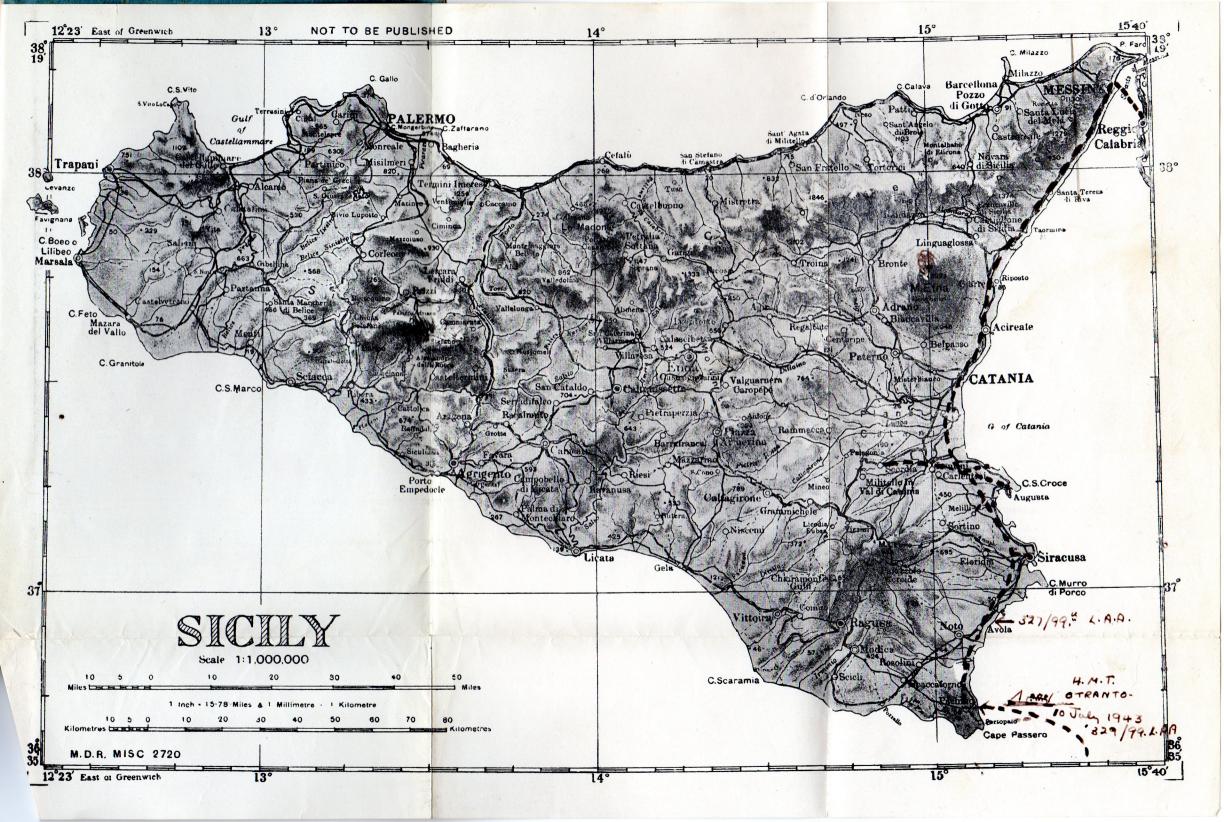


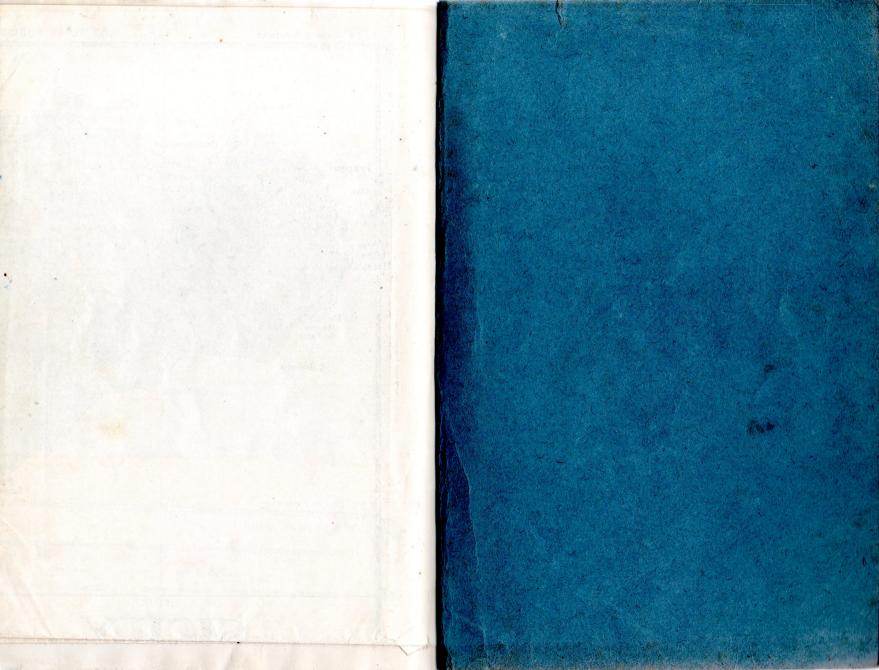
THE NORTH COAST—TERMINI IMERESE



TEMPLE OF JUNO (AGRIGENTO)











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